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JANUARY 8.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M.D., in the Chair.

Nineteen persons present.

The death of Baron Edmond de Selys-Longchamps, a correspondent, was announced.

The Food of the Cod.—DR. BENJAMIN SHARP called attention to some observations he had made last fall on the contents of the stomachs of the common Cod. Several hundred stomachs were opened with the hope of finding shells of gastropods and bivalves. Numerous valuable shells had been taken from the Cod years ago by Stimpson and Gould on the New England coast, north of Cape Cod, and it was supposed that similar finds would come to light from the Cod caught off Nantucket. The stomachs examined were filled almost exclusively with crustaceans and for the most part with species of *Panopeus*. Hermit crabs, without shells, and a few *Crepidulæ* were also seen. Here and there young lobsters were found in the stomachs, occasionally two in one stomach. In one Cod, weighing about thirty-five pounds, pieces of a lobster were found which, when placed together, indicated that the possessor was about eleven inches in length.

The Cod examined were all taken off the eastern end of the island, between the town of Siasconset and a place called Wawinet, where the tide (current) runs at a maximum of about six miles an hour. The bottom consists of coarse sand and is probably shifting, and consequently not a good bed for mollusks, the only food for the Cod found there being crustacean.

Dr. Sharp supposed that the decrease in quantity of the lobsters, which has been so marked within the past few years, is partly due to their consumption by the Cod; and as these have of late greatly increased in numbers, owing to the work of the United States Fish Commission, the lobsters have not been able to keep pace with the increase of their enemies.

JANUARY 15.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS in the Chair.

Fourteen persons present.